

50-6668

7 AUG 1960

Honorable Maurice H. Stans  
Director, Bureau of the Budget  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stans:

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This letter and the attached table are in response to your request to me on 25 August for information relating to the reductions in Soviet Military manpower.

The Soviet plan to reduce military manpower by 1,200,000 men (announced by Khrushchev on 14 January 1960) appears not to have been changed by the heightening of tensions since May 1960. We believe that, barring a domestic or international crisis of serious proportions, the announced program will substantially be carried out.

While we are fairly confident that an overall reduction on the order of 1,200,000 men will be carried out, we are far less certain of how this reduction will be allocated among various elements of the armed forces. The attached table contains our present estimate of this allocation, but it must be considered as more than usually tentative.

We do not believe that the manpower cuts indicate a corresponding diminution in Soviet military strength or capabilities, or in the total effort and resources which the Soviets will devote to military purposes. Rather, they reflect the accelerated adaptation of the Soviet armed forces to new military technologies, principally those relating to nuclear weapons and missiles, and to the strategic and tactical situation which new weapons have produced.

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Sincerely,

SIGNED

ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

25X1 OCI/Mil [ ] :dlm/4357 (26 Aug. 60)

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ESTIMATED PERSONNEL STRENGTHS OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES

	1 January 1960	1 July 1962 <sup>a/</sup>
Ministry of Defense	70,000	65,000
Headquarters <sup>b/</sup>	25,000	25,000
Research and Development	35,000	40,000
Theater Field Forces	2,445,000	1,540,000
Ground Forces, Field	2,250,000	1,465,000
Tactical Aviation	195,000	75,000
Air Defense Forces	365,000	305,000
Surface-to-Air Missiles	60,000	85,000
Antiaircraft Artillery (Gum)	100,000	20,000
Fighter Aviation	125,000	115,000
of Air Defense	80,000	85,000
Warning and Control		
Long Range Attack Forces	85,000	100,000 <sup>c/</sup>
Long Range Aviation	70,000	50,000
Surface-to-Surface Missiles	15,000	50,000
(SS-4, 5, and 6)		
Naval Forces (excl. personnel counted elsewhere)	495,000	310,000
Forces Afloat	185,000	150,000
Shore Establishment	230,000	140,000
Naval Aviation	80,000	20,000 <sup>d/</sup>
Military Transport Aviation	55,000	60,000
Preoperational Aviation Training	110,000	70,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,625,000</b>	<b>2,450,000</b>
Security Forces (not incl. in total)	250,000	200,000
Border Troops	150,000	140,000
Internal Troops	100,000	60,000

(Footnotes on following page.)

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Footnotes to table of Estimated Personnel Strengths of Soviet Armed Forces.

- a/ This estimate of personnel strengths of the various elements of the Soviet armed forces in mid-1962 is an approximation based on projected order of battle. In view of the tentative nature of these force projections, the personnel strengths are more an indicator of trends and orders of magnitude than of a precise detailed distribution of military manpower.

There are at present a substantial but unknown number of civilians working for the Soviet military establishment. There is evidence that some functions previously performed by military personnel have in the course of reductions in recent years come increasingly to be filled by civilian employees, particularly in construction and other logistical activity. We believe that this trend will be intensified during current reductions in active military personnel.

- b/ Military scientific research and development in the USSR is largely conducted by civilian agencies, in particular the Academy of Sciences, the State Committees for Defense Technology, Aviation Technology, Scientific-Technical matters, Radio-Electronics, and Shipbuilding, and by the Ministry of Medium Machine Building (nuclear weapons). The numbers of active duty military personnel estimated here are those primarily subordinate to the Ministry of Defense and at missile test ranges, in electronics, nuclear development, and aviation technology. Other military personnel in R&D and allied functions are counted in other categories.
- c/ Based on his estimates of projected order of battle, the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, USAF, believes that personnel strength for Long Range Aviation in mid-1962 should be 65,000, and for these missile forces should be 70,000.
- d/ The Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Intelligence), Department of the Navy believes the estimate that such radical reductions are to take place in the naval air forces is doubtful. He believes that the figure for Naval Aviation personnel projected for 1962 should be on the order of 65,000.

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